

PATENT**REMARKS**

The Office Action dated December 8, 2005 has been received and carefully considered. In this response, claims 1, 8, 10, 11, 15, 30 and 37 have been amended and claims 9, 17, 31 and 38 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for the amendments may be found in the specification and drawings as originally filed. Reconsideration of the outstanding objections and rejections in the present application is respectfully requested based on the following remarks.

Telephonic Interview of January 10, 2006

The undersigned notes with appreciation the courtesies extended by the Examiner during the telephonic interview (hereinafter, "the Interview") of January 10, 2006. As discussed during the Interview, the proposed combinations of the cited references fail to disclose or suggest the feature of processing of two voices in parallel in combination with the feature of assigning or using a different number of coefficients for each voice based on certain criteria. Accordingly, in an effort to advance the present application to issuance, the independent claims have been amended consistent with the substance of the Interview.

Objection to Claims 9, 31, and 38

At page 2 of the Office Action, claims 9, 31, and 38 are objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) as being improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Specifically, the Office Action asserts at page 2 that "[p]arent claims 8, 30, and 37 indicate that the number of coefficients assigned are different for the first and second voices, however, claims 9, 31 and 38 each recite that the number of filter coefficients are equal." It is respectfully submitted that the Office has misinterpreted the claim language.

To illustrate, claim 8, which has been amended to include the features of dependent claim 9. It will be appreciated that claim 8, as amended, does not recite that the number of filter coefficients are equal. Rather, claim 8 provides that the number of filter coefficients of the first finite impulse response filter used to process the first voice data is equal to the first number of

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filter coefficients assigned to the first voice data and that the number of filter coefficients of the second finite impulse filter used to process the second voice data is equal to the second number of filter coefficients assigned to the second voice data. Claims 30 and 37, which have been amended to include the features of dependent claims 31 and 38, respectively, recite a similar relationship.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the objection to claims 9, 31 and 38 is improper at this time. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection therefore is respectfully requested.

Objection to Claim 39

At page 2 of the Office Action, claim 39 is objected to for having an informality. Claim 39 has been amended consistent with the Office's remarks. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection therefore is respectfully requested.

Rejections of Claims 1-17, 19-22 and 30-43

At page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-3, 8, 11-12, 15-16, 19, 22, 30, 33-34, 37, 40 and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Yamazaki (U.S. Patent No. 6,343,130). At page 3 of the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 8, 15, 16, 2, 30, and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kamiya (U.S. Patent No. 6,643,674). At page 4 of the Office Action, claims 4-7, 9, 13, 14, 20, 21, 31, 35, 36, 38, 42, and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamazaki in view of Conner (U.S. Patent No. 6,011,851). At page 5 of the Office Action, claims 10, 17, 32 and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamazaki. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite the additional feature of wherein the first voice and the second voice are processed substantially in parallel. Independent claim 8 has been amended to recite the additional features of processing the first voice data using a first finite impulse response filter, wherein a number of filter coefficients used by the first finite impulse response filter is equal to the first number of filter coefficients assigned to the first voice data, and processing the second voice data using a second finite impulse response filter, wherein a

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number of filter coefficients used by the second finite impulse response filter is equal to the second number of filter coefficients assigned to the second voice data, wherein the first voice data and the second voice data are processed substantially in parallel. Independent claims 30 and 37 have been similarly amended. Independent claim 15 has been amended to recite the additional features of wherein the first Head Related Transfer Function and the second Head Related Transfer Function are applied substantially in parallel.

As acknowledged by the Examiner during the Interview, the cited references fail to disclose or suggest, individually or in combination, the claimed features of processing a first voice and a second voice substantially in parallel in combination with the other features presently recited by independent claims 1, 8, 30 and 37. See Office Action, p. 2 ("[i]t is of note that the claim language does not specify that . . . whereby the processing/assigning of the voices/coefficients are done simultaneously. This claim language obviates this rejection which is based on the fact that a signal sound source can be processed differently at distinct times."). Likewise, it is respectfully submitted that the cited references fail to disclose or suggest, individually or in combination, the claimed features of wherein the first Head Related Transfer Function and the second Head Related Transfer Function are applied substantially in parallel in combination with the other features presently recited by independent claim 15. Accordingly, the cited references fail to disclose or suggest, individually or in combination, each and every feature recited by independent claims 1, 8, 15, 30 and 37, as well as the additional features of claims 2-7, 10-14, 16, 19-22, 32-36 and 39-43 at least by virtue of their dependency from one of claims 1, 8, 15, 30 or 37. Moreover, these claims recite additional non-obvious features.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections of claims 1-17, 19-22 and 30-43 are improper at this time. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections therefore is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is courteously solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed telephone number in order to expedite

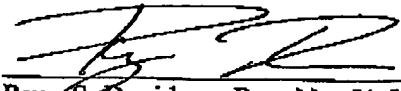
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resolution of any issues and to expedite passage of the present application to issue, if any comments, questions, or suggestions arise in connection with the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-0441.

Respectfully submitted,

7 February 2006
Date


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